

Maine State Library Maine State Documents

ConnectME Authority Meetings

ConnectME Authority

3-16-2010

ConnectME Authority Meeting Notes - March 16, 2010

ConnectME Authority

Follow this and additional works at: http://digitalmaine.com/connectme_meetings

Recommended Citation

ConnectME Authority, "ConnectME Authority Meeting Notes - March 16, 2010" (2010). *ConnectME Authority Meetings*. Paper 44.
http://digitalmaine.com/connectme_meetings/44

This Text is brought to you for free and open access by the ConnectME Authority at Maine State Documents. It has been accepted for inclusion in ConnectME Authority Meetings by an authorized administrator of Maine State Documents. For more information, please contact statedocs@maine.gov.

ConnectME Authority

March 16, 2010 – Meeting Notes

I. Introductions

Authority Members: Jean Wilson, Dick Thompson, PUC Chair Sharon Reishus

Staff: Phil Lindley, Lisa Leahy

II. Mapping and Inventory Project – Update

Randy Claar, James Sewall Company, provided a brief update on the status of the broadband mapping project. The non-disclosure agreement process is moving forward; most of the major service providers have executed an NDA and have begun providing data. Sewall has also begun to receive wireless propagation maps. A helpful piece of information will be “failed service” locations from the various providers. Over 4,100 consumer broadband speed test results have been captured. A method will be added to the online map to provide feedback and will allow consumers to correct information regarding the availability of broadband service, or the lack thereof.

III. Advisory Council (AC) Report

Reggie Palmer, Co Chair of the AC, said that the AC has met a number of times to clarify the definition of “overlap” and the wording of a refined or default overlap avoidance agreement, with limited consensus. The recommendation is to continue to encourage collaboration and to use the existing avoidance agreement where necessary. He also recommended a possible change in membership of the AC and wider participation. The Executive Director will work to increase participation in AC meetings and seek guidance from the AC regarding new membership on the AC. Fletcher Kittredge, Chair of the AC, reported on a broadband informational meeting in the Sacopee Valley area attended by 60 to 70 community members. There was a high level of interest from the western mountains communities. He recommended future regional forums.

IV. Legislative Update – Dick Thompson

- LD 1646, An Act to Establish a Broadband Policy for Maine, was voted by the U and E Committee to pass as amended.
- LD 1697, An Act to Protect Universal Service, was voted not to pass.
- LD 1778, An Act to Enable the Installation of Broadband Infrastructure, was voted to pass as amended. One of the amendments to the bill will add a surcharge (Broadband Sustainability fee) to dark fiber rates to provide funds to the Authority for last mile expansions by ILECs.

V. ARRA Broadband Grants: Second Round

Ralph Thompson, FairPoint, provide a description of the company’s second round BTOP application. It would provide service to 700 community anchor institutions and

last mile service to Washington and Hancock county communities. The Authority agreed to provide a support letter for the application, consistent with Authority goals and would consider financial support in a subsequent grant round.

VI. Waiver Request: FCC Form 477 Data

FairPoint filed a request for waiver from the Authority rule requiring service providers to submit FCC Form 477 data to the Authority. As the online filing mechanism is no longer compatible with a format useable by the Authority and the rule allows waiver of provisions of the Authority's chapter, the waiver was granted and made applicable to all service providers.

VII. Grant Extension Requests

Project extension requests were submitted and approved:

- Axiom Technologies, 2nd Grant Round, extension to 6/1/2010.
- RedZone Wireless, 2nd Grant Round, extension to 9/18/2010.
- Franklin Community Health Network, 2nd Grant Round, extension to 10/29/2010.

VIII. Fourth Grant Round: Status

None filed by the date of the meeting, over thirty pre-application letters submitted. Dick Thompson recommended that the Authority, in the near future, review available financial resources to explore other activities that the Authority might be involved in.

IX. Executive Director's Report

Financial reports were reviewed: Fund Performance Report; Expenditures; Estimated Cash flow to the end of the FY.

X. Public Comment

Fletcher Kittredge described the pending Google Ultra Broadband project and potential applications.